

Appl. No. : 09/389,720
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cont.
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a carrier in mechanical communication with said film for providing enhanced rigidity to said film by being sized and configured to add material at selected regions of said film.

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed August 15, 2001. Applicant has hereby amended Claim 20 and cancelled Claims 1-19, 25, 28 and 31-34. Thus, Claims 20-24, 26, 27, 29 and 30 are pending in this application.

The specific changes to the amended claim are shown on a separate page attached hereto and entitled VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, which follows the signature page of this Response. On this page, any insertions are underlined while any [deletions] are in brackets].

A clean copy of the pending claims is attached hereto on a separate set of pages and entitled CLEAN COPY OF PENDING CLAIMS, which also follows the signature page of this Response.

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Mitchell for the telephonic interview extended to Applicant's counsel of record, John R. King, on December 14, 2001. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that the cited references did not disclose, teach or suggest that each substrate unit 24 was generally defined on the film 18 between a pair of flanking slots 44. These unique slots 44 are shown clearly, for example, in FIGS. 2 and 3 of the present application.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claim 20 to substantially incorporate the limitation of now cancelled Claim 28. Amended Claim 20 sets forth an assembly comprising a film and a carrier and recites, among other things, that each one of the plurality of substrate units is generally defined on the film between a pair of flanking slots. Thus, it is believed that Claims 20-24, 26, 27, 29 and 30 are patentably distinguished over the cited references and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of Claims 20-24, 26, 27, 29 and 30.

DRAWINGS

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that FIG. 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--. Applicant will make this drawing change once the application is in condition for allowance.